



Signature Report

April 10, 2008

Motion

**Proposed No.** 2008-0218.1

**Sponsors** Patterson and Constantine

1 A MOTION adopting a policy framework for animal  
2 services and establishing a process for the development of a  
3 strategic plan, operational master plan, facilities master  
4 plan, and business plan.

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6  
7 WHEREAS, King County animal services include services provided by the  
8 Seattle-King County department of public health, King County sheriff's office and the  
9 animal care and control section of the records and licensing services division of the  
10 department of executive services, and

11 WHEREAS, Seattle-King County department of public health provides zoonotic  
12 and animal borne disease control, sanitary and health based enforcement and may inspect  
13 animal housing for compliance with public health standards, and

14 WHEREAS, the King County sheriff's office provides animal and human safety  
15 based enforcement and cruelty investigations for compliance with public safety  
16 standards, and

17           WHEREAS, the animal care and control section of the records and licensing  
18           services division of the department of executive services provides animal shelter, medical  
19           care, nuisance control, notice of order based enforcement, pet licensing, licensing for  
20           businesses and organizations that house animals, code compliance inspections and cruelty  
21           investigations, and

22           WHEREAS, the King County code 11.04.011, states that the purpose of King  
23           County animal care and control is to serve and maintain such levels of animal care as will  
24           protect animal and human health and safety, and to the greatest degree practicable to  
25           prevent injury to humans, property and cruelty to animal life, and

26           WHEREAS, on May 29, 2007, the council adopted Ordinance 15801 to reduce  
27           rates of euthanasia, redefine the roles and responsibilities of the animal care and control  
28           citizen's advisory committee, and reduce access to animals by individuals convicted or  
29           charged with animal cruelty, and

30           WHEREAS, on May 29, 2007, the council approved Motion 12521 relating to the  
31           provision of services to animals and requesting that the executive transmit a report to  
32           include recommendations to improve the humane care of animals and develop a model  
33           animal services program, and

34           WHEREAS, Motion 12521 further requested that the executive work with the  
35           animal care and control citizen's advisory committee to develop the report, and

36           WHEREAS, the animal care and control citizen's advisory committee submitted a  
37           special report dated September 24, 2007, and

38           WHEREAS, on October 8, 2007 the council approved Motion 12600 accepting  
39           the animal care and control citizen's advisory committee report and requesting that the

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40 executive take immediate steps to determine the feasibility of the recommendations  
41 identified in the report, in addition to exploring the business decision of discontinuing the  
42 provision of animal sheltering services and declaring an urgent need for action to  
43 implement the recommendations contained within the animal care and control citizen's  
44 advisory committee report, and

45 WHEREAS, the executive submitted the King County Animal Care and Control  
46 2008 Operation Plan dated November 2, 2007, and

47 WHEREAS, on November 19, 2007 the council approved Ordinance 15975, the  
48 2008 budget ordinance, establishing a proviso restricting funds to the records and  
49 licensing division pending the outcome of a preliminary evaluation of the leadership,  
50 human resources and structural capacity to become a model no-kill program, and

51 WHEREAS, on March 24, 2008 the council received a preliminary evaluation of  
52 leadership, human resources and structural capacity to become a model no-kill program,  
53 and

54 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for action to address problems identified with  
55 the animal services in King County, and

56 WHEREAS, the county is committed to reform animal services;

57  
58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

59 A. It is the intent of the county that the following vision, mission, guiding  
60 principles and goals for King County animal services be the foundation for the strategic  
61 planning efforts for animal services:

1. Vision: King County ensures humane treatment of animals and protects the health and safety of the public;
2. Mission: King County protects the public health from animal borne and zoonotic disease, keeps the public safe from animals and nuisances, prevents animal cruelty, reduces the number of homeless animals entering shelters, increases pet adoptions and seeks to eliminate euthanasia of healthy or treatable animals;
3. Guiding Principles:
  - a. The public has the right to be safe from animals and animal borne and zoonotic disease and to avoid animal nuisances;
  - b. All animals shall be treated humanely;
  - c. Animal services shall be coordinated and integrated with other services and programs as appropriate;
  - d. The county's animal services programs shall be accountable and transparent to the public;
  - e. The quality of animal services shall be continuously improved; and
  - f. Animal services shall be provided in a fiscally responsible and sustainable manner.
4. Goals:
  - a. Protect the public's health and safety from zoonotic and animal borne disease through effective public health programs;
  - b. Ensure access to life saving programs including adoption, medical care, socialization and behavioral modification;

- 84 c. Reduce the number of homeless pets through the provision of low-cost,  
85 high-volume spay and neuter services, pet retention education and  
86 participation in a feral cat trap neuter return and release program;  
87 d. Achieve a euthanasia rate for healthy or treatable animals of fifteen percent  
88 by the end of 2009;  
89 e. Actively pursue animal cruelty investigations;  
90 f. Create strong county partnerships with volunteers, fosters, rescue groups  
91 and stakeholders and the media;

92 B. A King County inter-branch animal services work group is hereby created with  
93 the purpose of reforming King County animal services.

- 94 1. Responsibilities: The King County inter-branch animal services work  
95 group shall develop the King County animal services strategic plan,  
96 operational master plan and facilities master plan for the three-year period  
97 2009 through 2011;  
98 2. Membership: The King County inter-branch animal services work group  
99 shall be co-chaired by the directors of the office of management and  
100 budget and county council policy staff, or their designees. The King  
101 County inter-branch animal services work group shall include the directors  
102 of the office of management and budget, county council policy staff,  
103 department of executive services, Seattle-King County department of  
104 public health, the King County sheriff and the King County prosecutor, or  
105 their designees.

3. Staff Liaison: The office of management and budget shall designate a staff liaison to the King County inter-branch animal services work group who shall be responsible, at a minimum, for assisting the work group in developing the strategic, operational and master plans, writing and producing drafts and the final strategic, operational and master plans, organizing the meetings, sending meeting agendas in advance of the meeting to members, taking minutes of the minutes and distributing the minutes to members.

C. The inter-branch animal services work group shall convene a community stakeholder group to review and provide recommendations to the county executive and council on the King County animal services strategic plan, operational master plan and facilities master plan for the three-year period 2009 through 2011. The community stakeholder group's review shall be provided before the county executive transmits the strategic plan, operational master plan and facilities master plan for the three-year period 2009 through 2011 to the county council for its review and possible adoption.

D. Strategic Plan: a King County animal services strategic plan for the three-year period 2009 through 2011 shall be developed by the King County inter-branch animal services work group. The plan shall be transmitted by the county executive to the county council by ordinance on or before August 15, 2008. Annual updates to the strategic plan, including annual performance measures shall be reported to council by motion by May

1.The strategic plan shall include the following components:

1. Regulatory and policy framework for regional and local provision of animal services. And within local provision of services, what services are mandated and discretionary;
2. Vision and mission statements;
3. Prioritized medium- and long-range goals;
4. Priority outcomes relative for each goal with a primary department accountable to achieve each goal; and
5. Performance measures for each goal with a primary department accountable for improvement of each performance measure.

E. Operational Master Plan: A King County animal services operational master plan for the three-year period 2009 through 2011 shall be developed by the King County inter-branch animal services work group. The plan shall be transmitted by the county executive to the county council by ordinance on or before August 15, 2008. The operational master plan shall be based on the strategic plan and shall include the following components:

1. Organizational and financial evaluation of the strategic plan on how regional and local animal services should be provided or contracted for by King County;
2. Organizational and financial evaluation of the strategic plan on how King County should provide or contract for animal services in King County unincorporated areas and cities and towns;

148                   3. Development of, at a minimum, the following organizational options  
149                   for how King County animal services strategic plan for the three-year  
150                   period 2009 through 2011 can be implemented:

151                   a. Status quo option. King County continues to provide regional and  
152                   local unincorporated and incorporated animal services as currently  
153                   organized within the departments of public health and executive  
154                   services and the sheriff's office;

155                   b. Reorganize animal services within county government.

156                   c. Reorganize animal services in partnership with King County and  
157                   partners.

158                   F. Facilities Master Plan: a King County animal services facilities master plan for  
159                   the three-year period 2009 through 2011 shall be developed by the King County inter-  
160                   branch animal services work group. The facilities master plan shall be transmitted to  
161                   council by the county executive by August 15, 2008 by ordinance. The facilities master  
162                   plan shall be based on the operational master plan and shall include the following  
163                   components:

164                   1. An inventory of existing animal services capital facilities, showing the  
165                   locations and capacities of the facilities;

166                   2. A forecast of the future needs for such capital facilities;

167                   the proposed locations and capacities of expanded or new capital facilities;

168                   and



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- 169                    3. At least a six-year plan that will finance such capital facilities within  
170                    projected funding capacities and clearly identifies sources of public money  
171                    for such purposes,

172                    G. Business Plans: The proposed 2009 business plans for the departments of  
173 executive services, Seattle-King County department of public health and the King County  
174 sheriff, shall be updated upon adoption of the animal services strategic plan and shall be  
175 coordinated and integrated with the proposed 2009 King County budget.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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ATTEST:

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**Attachments**       None

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